

create his genius. His spirit, however, remained unbroken; the hardships he endured only served to fuel his devotion and determination. He exhibited his passion for freedom in his poetry and fueled the hearts of Ukrainians toward the goal of independence. During today's commemoration let us honor the memory of Taras Shevchenko, and his unparalleled contribution to a strong, stable, democratic Ukraine.

The June 1964 unveiling of the Shevchenko monument in Washington DC was a major victory for Ukrainians residing in the United States. Despite incredible resistance from the Soviet Union, a united Ukrainian community in America was able to enlist the help of prominent American politicians, academicians and artists to build this monument and establish it as a forum for truth, unveiling the injustices of the Soviet regime.

Forty years later, Ukraine faces very different, albeit equally difficult times. Since the fall of the Soviet Union and the reestablishment of Ukrainian independence, Ukraine has stabilized its economy and taken great strides toward democracy, however, there is still much to be accomplished. The people of Ukraine need support and encouragement. The Ukrainian community in the U.S. has been a very vocal advocate of Ukraine and continues to promote its democratic development. As a longtime supporter of the Ukrainian American community I am pleased to see a renewed effort to unite the Ukrainians in the United States and amplify the power of their voice in Washington as well as in Kyiv. I commend the initiative of the Ukrainian community in the United States in an effort to help Ukraine reclaim its proper place among the developed democratic European states.

I congratulate the Ukrainian American community on this remarkable anniversary and wish them success in their future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL WALLACE TUBELL

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Wallace Tubell upon his retirement after twenty years of outstanding service to our country in the United States Army. After his effective retirement date of August 31, 2004, Lieutenant Colonel Tubell will reside in my Congressional district.

As the Product Manager for the Army's Tactical Operations Centers Integration Program, Lieutenant Colonel Tubell led a team of military, government and contractor personnel in fielding and sustaining Tactical Operations Centers for 4th Infantry Division, 1st Cavalry Division, the Stryker Brigade Combat Teams, Third U.S. Army and other major commands worldwide. Lieutenant Colonel Tubell's program exceeded all requirements and was delivered on schedule and within budget. Lieutenant Colonel Tubell's personal dedication, sound management, and ability to build a strong team has contributed to the Product Office becoming a "Center of Excellence" in Command Post and Tactical Operations Centers design and development. He has been the driving force behind transforming analog

Tactical Operations Centers into Network-Centric Command Posts for our warfighters and their staffs. His achievements and dedicated service have reflected great credit upon himself, the Army Acquisition Corps, the United States Army, and the Department of Defense.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of North Alabama, I congratulate Lieutenant Colonel Tubell for his twenty years of service to our country and I welcome him to our North Alabama community.

IN HONOR OF UNION ADVOCATE JAMES "JIMMY" DEANE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Jimmy Deane, Business Manager of the Laborers' Union, Local 310 of Cleveland, Ohio, as we celebrate his retirement following more than forty years of advocacy, commitment and leadership within this significant union of workers.

Mr. Deane journeyed to America from Ireland in 1962, with the promise of honest work and hope for a new beginning. He began work as a laborer in the construction trades and became a member of the union in 1962. In 1991 he was appointed to the position of Field Representative, and in 1995 he accepted the appointment of Business Manager. Throughout his union tenure, Mr. Deane remained focused on workers' rights, benefits, and safety. As a result of his concern, expertise and leadership, Laborers' Union, Local 310 reflected fiscal responsibility, integrity and effectiveness in representing and protecting its members.

Mr. Deane's activism extends throughout our local labor and political landscapes. He is a member of the Laborers District Council of Ohio, an Executive Board Trustee of the Ohio Laborers Training Fund, and has also served as delegate to the AFL-CIO. Though his Irish homeland lives forever in his heart, Mr. Deane wholly embraced all that is America. His activism within our democratic processes and support of local candidates serves to strengthen our community and, corresponding with the union, illuminates the foundation of America—a foundation of equal representation and justice for all.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and recognition of my good friend, Mr. Jimmy Deane—Business Manager of the Laborers' Union, Local 310, as we reflect on his significant service and dedication to working individuals and their families. Mr. Deane's integrity, conviction, and exceptional ability to bring people and ideas together for the common good, has served to raise the bar on all levels within the union, the workplace, and within our community. His steadfast commitment to the laborers of our community is a guiding force for all union members and leaders to emulate—today, and for generations of workers to come. We wish Mr. Jimmy Deane and his entire family many blessings of happiness, health and peace—today, tomorrow and in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I was regretfully absent on June 14, 2004 and June 15, 2004. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way: "aye" on rollcall vote 232, "aye" on rollcall vote 233, "aye" on rollcall vote 234, "aye" on rollcall vote 235, "nay" on rollcall vote 236, "nay" on rollcall vote 237, "nay" on rollcall vote 238, "nay" on rollcall vote 239, "aye" on rollcall vote 240, "nay" on rollcall vote 241, and "nay" on rollcall vote 242.

FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing the "Friends of the Children National Demonstration Act" that would authorize \$7 million for Friends of the Children to support local program operations at existing sites and dissemination of findings to policymakers and other youth-serving programs. Friends of the Children is the only program in the nation that provides carefully screened full-time professional mentors to at-risk children for 12 years starting at five years of age. The Portland program started in 1993 with 3 "Friends" mentors serving 24 children. Today, Friends of the Children serves over 600 children in 11 communities across the nation. The children served by this innovative program are truly the most defenseless—they are children of poverty; they have been in foster care, on welfare, and have parents who are incarcerated or are homeless. Friends of the Children's first class is now graduating from the Portland program; and the graduates are outperforming their peer group of at-risk children.

Here is a real-life example of the impact this program has: Natasha joined the Friends of the Children Portland program in 1993 and has overcome a family history of drug abuse and prostitution. Natasha has developed a strong relationship with her mentor, Jennifer. When she first enrolled in the Friends program, Natasha was unmotivated and did not enjoy her school work. With Jennifer's guidance, Natasha has found the determination to become a leader and maintain a positive attitude. She follows this philosophy in other aspects of her life, refusing to bow to peer pressure and confronting her friends when they are considering risky behaviors such as smoking. Now 17, Natasha has excelled as a member of her high school softball team and has become an avid photographer. She plans to study photography in college and will begin the college application process this fall by visiting college campuses with Jennifer. Natasha is a wonderful role model for the children and has benefited in a unique way from the Friends program. Natasha lived with her great-grandmother until she passed away in 2000. She is now living with a former Friends of the Children mentor who serves as her legal guardian.